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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/960,306	09/24/2001	Donald Richard LaCoy	20272/0688	5354

7590

05/09/2003

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EXAMINER

HARVEY, JAMES R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 05/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/960,306

Applicant(s)

LACOY, DONALD RICHARD

Examiner

James R. Harvey

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on amendment filed 2-27-03.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 11-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 February 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

-- Corrected drawings were received on 2-27-03. These corrected drawings are approved by the examiner.

Claim Objections

- Claim(s) 1 and 5 is/are objected to because of the following informalities:

-- In reference to the amended claim language "a spacing between each adjacent pair", the record is not clear if applicant seeks patent protection for a spacing between the circumferential distance or a spacing between a linear distance between the center axis. For purposes of examination, it is assumed that applicant intended to claim the latter (see examiner's figure).

-- Appropriate correction of the above is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

- The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

- Claim(s) 1-5 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bonhomme (4203647).

-- In reference to claim 1, Bonhomme shows (figure 11)

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a retaining structure 19 and a plurality of wires 3 extending along the socket in a hyperboloid arrangement suitably exposed for contact with a male contact member inserted within the socket,

wherein the wires are arranged in groups of at least two wires each (see examiner's detail), and

wherein a spacing of the wire in each group is closer than a spacing between each adjacent pair of the groups (see examiner's figure), and

wherein the spacing between each adjacent pair of groups is free of any wires.

-- In reference to claim 5, Bonhomme shows (figures 2 and 6)

a first support member 6 at one end of the socket;

a second support member 7 at an opposite end;

a first pair of resilient contact wires extending along the socket at an angle to an axis of the socket,

wherein corresponding wires are attached to the first and second support members at opposite ends;

a second pair of resilient contact wires extending along the socket at an angle to the axis, the second pair of wires being spaced around the socket from the first pair and being attached with the first and second support members at opposite ends; and

a third pair of resilient contact wires extending along the socket at an angle to the axis; the third pair of wires being spaced around the socket from the first and second pair (see examiner's detail) and being attached with the first and second support member at opposite ends such that

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the three pairs of wires make a hyperboloid arrangement and are suitably exposed for contact with a male 11 contact member inserted with the socket,

wherein a spacing between adjacent wires in each of the first and second pairs of wires is less than a spacing between each of the three pairs of wires (see examiner's figure), and

wherein the spacing between any adjacent pair of wires is free of any wires.

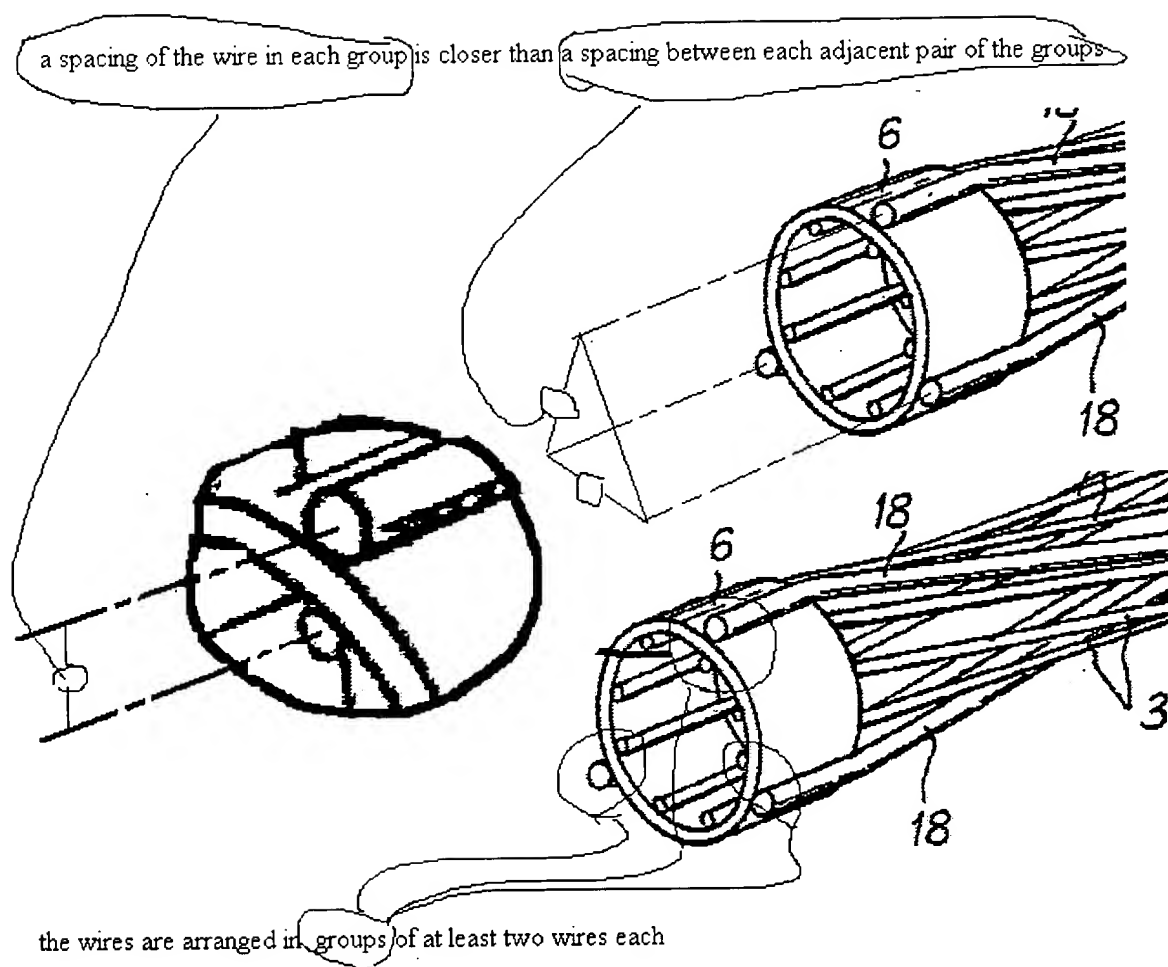
-- In reference to claim 2, Bonhomme shows the wires in each group extend along the socket in contact with one another. The meaning of "contact" is a broad term that can mean either physical contact or electrical contact, Bonhomme shows the wires are in electrical contact with one another.

-- In reference to claims 3 and 11, the socket includes three groups of two wires each (see examiner's figure) .

-- In reference to claims 4, 12, and 13, the retaining structure 12 includes a ring at each end of the socket, and

wherein the wires are retained in groups by attachment to the rings at opposite ends of the socket.

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Response to Arguments

-- Applicant's arguments filed in response to the previous office action have been considered, but they are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

- Effective May 1, 2003, the United States Patent and Trademark Office has a new Commissioner for Patents address. Correspondence in patent related matters must now be addressed to:

**Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

For additional information regarding the new address, see Correspondence with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 68 Fed. Reg. 14332 (March 25, 2003).

- Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Harvey whose telephone number is 703-305-0958. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. To 5:00 P.M.

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- If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 703-308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7724 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.
- Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0952.

James R. Harvey, Examiner

jrh

May 5, 2003



THOD A.
PRIMARY EXAMINER